

(iv) Be stowed in such a way that it runs out freely when the life float or buoyant apparatus floats away from a sinking vessel.

(4) *Light.* The light must be a floating waterlight approved under approval series 161.010 or a standard specified by the Commandant. The floating waterlight must be attached around the body of the life float or buoyant apparatus by a 10 mm (3/8 inch) lanyard, resistant to deterioration from ultraviolet light, and at least 5.5 meters (18 feet) in length.

(g) *Other survival craft.* If survival craft other than inflatable liferafts, life floats, inflatable buoyant apparatus, and buoyant apparatus are carried on the vessel, such as lifeboats or rigid liferafts, they must be installed, arranged, and equipped as required in subchapter H (Passenger Vessels) of this chapter for passenger vessels on the same route.

[CGD 85-080, 61 FR 911, Jan. 10, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 51351, Sept. 30, 1997; 62 FR 64305, Dec. 5, 1997]

Subpart E—Number and Type of Survival Craft

§ 117.200 Survival craft—general.

(a) Each survival craft required on a vessel by this part must meet one of the following:

(1) For an inflatable liferaft—Approved under approval series 160.151 or other standard specified by the Commandant, with the applicable equipment pack, as determined by the cognizant OCMI. Each inflatable liferaft required on a vessel by this part must

have a capacity of 6 persons or more. Inflatable liferafts may be substituted for inflatable buoyant apparatus or life floats required under this section.

(2) For a life float—Approved under approval series 160.027 or other standard specified by the Commandant. Buoyant apparatus may be used to meet requirements for life floats if the buoyant apparatus was installed on board the vessel on or before March 11, 1996, and if the buoyant apparatus remains in good and serviceable condition.

(3) For an inflatable buoyant apparatus—Approved under approval series 160.010 or other standard specified by the Commandant. Inflatable buoyant apparatus may be substituted for life floats required under this section.

(4) For a buoyant apparatus—Approved under approval series 160.010 or other standard specified by the Commandant. An existing buoyant apparatus may not be used to satisfy the requirements for life floats on existing vessels wishing to upgrade the total number of passengers carried on an oceans route.

(b) If the vessel carries a small boat or boats, the capacity of these boats may be counted toward the life float capacity required by this subpart. Such boats must meet the requirements for safe loading and flotation in 33 CFR Part 183, and must meet the stowage, launching and equipment requirements in this part for the survival craft they replace.

(c) A summary of survival craft requirements is provided in Table 117.200(c).

TABLE 117.200(c)

Route	Survival Craft Required
Oceans	(a) cold water ¹ —100% ILR ² —§ 117.202(a) (b) warm water ³ (i) w/overnight accommodations—100% IBA ⁵ —§ 117.204(c) (ii) w/o overnight accommodations—67% IBA ⁴ —§ 117.202(e)
Coastwise	(a) w/overnight accommodations—100% IBA ⁵ —§ 117.204(a) (b) w/o overnight accommodations (i) cold water—67% IBA—§ 117.204(c)(1) (ii) warm water—100% LF—§ 117.204(c)(2) (iii) within three miles of shore w/float free 406 MHz EPIRB 50% LF—§ 117.204(d)
Limited coastwise (Not more than 20 miles from a harbor of safe refuge).	(a) w/overnight accommodations—100% IBA ⁵ —§ 117.205(a) (b) w/o overnight accommodations (i) cold water—67% IBA ⁶ —§ 117.205(a) (ii) warm water—50% LF—§ 117.205(c) (iii) within three miles of shore w/float free 406 MHz EPIRB

TABLE 117.200(c)—Continued

Route	Survival Craft Required
	(A) cold water—50% LF—§ 117.205(a) (B) warm water—NONE—§ 117.205(d)
Great Lakes	(a) same as limited coastwise (a) & (b)—§ 117.206(a) (b) within one mile of shore—NONE ⁷ —§ 117.206(b)
Lakes, bays, and sounds ^{8,9}	(a) w/overnight accommodations—67% IBA ⁵ —§ 117.207(a) (b) w/o overnight accommodations (i) cold water—100% LF—§ 117.207(b)(1) & (c)(1) (ii) warm water—50% LF—§ 117.207(b)(2) & (c)(2) (iii) within one mile of shore—NONE—§ 117.207(d)
Rivers ^{9,10}	(a) cold water (i) 50% LF—§ 117.208(a) (ii) within one mile of shore—NONE—§ 117.208(c) (b) Warm water—NONE—§ 117.208(b)

Abbreviations used:

ILR = Inflatable liferaft

IBA = Inflatable Buoyant apparatus

LF = Life Float. As allowed by § 117.15(c), any buoyant apparatus in use on an existing vessel on March 11, 1996, may be used to meet the requirements for LF as long as the buoyant apparatus is in good and serviceable condition.

Footnotes:

¹ Cold water means the cognizant OCMI has determined the monthly mean low temperature of the water is ≤ 15° C (59° F)

² Vessels operating less than 50 miles from shore may carry 100% IBA in lieu of ILR—§ 117.202(b)

³ Warm water means the cognizant OCMI has determined the monthly mean low temperature of the water is > 15° C (59° F)

⁴ Vessels operating in warm water may substitute 100% LF in lieu of 67% IBA—§ 117.202(c)

⁵ IBA for total number of overnight passengers allowed. Additional primary lifesaving may be required—§ 117.204(b), § 117.205(a), § 117.206(a), and § 117.207(b)

⁶ Certain vessel operations may substitute 100% LF in lieu of IBA—§ 117.205(b)

⁷ OCMI may reduce primary lifesaving for seasonal or ferry type operations on the Great Lakes—§ 117.206(b)

⁸ Shallow water exception—§ 117.207(e).

⁹ OCMI may reduce survival craft requirements based upon the route, communications schedule, and participation in VTS—§ 117.207(f) and § 117.208(e).

¹⁰ Shallow water exception—§ 117.208(d)

[CGD 85–080, 61 FR 911, Jan. 10, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 51351, Sept. 30, 1997; 62 FR 64305, Dec. 5, 1997]

§ 117.202 Survival craft—vessels operating on oceans routes.

(a) Except as allowed by paragraph (b) of this section, each vessel certificated to operate on an oceans route in cold water must be provided with inflatable liferafts of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of persons permitted on board.

(b) Each vessel certificated to operate on an oceans route not more than 50 nautical miles offshore in cold water must be provided with inflatable buoyant apparatus of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of persons permitted on board.

(c) Each vessel with overnight accommodations certificated to operate on an oceans route in warm water must be provided with inflatable buoyant apparatus of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of overnight persons permitted on board.

(d) Where the total number of persons allowed on the COI exceeds the total number of overnight persons allowed, the survival craft requirements contained in paragraph (e) of this section apply when not engaged in an overnight voyage.

(e) Each vessel certificated to operate on an oceans route in warm water must be provided with either:

(i) Inflatable buoyant apparatus of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 67% of the total number of persons permitted on board; or

(ii) Life floats of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of persons permitted on board.

§ 117.204 Survival craft—vessels operating on coastwise routes.

(a) Each vessel with overnight accommodations certificated to operate on a coastwise route must be provided with inflatable buoyant apparatus of an aggregate capacity that will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of overnight persons permitted on board.

(b) Where the total number of persons allowed on the COI exceeds the